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The Seamy Side Of Spy Business

By Marquis Childs

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THE MISERABLE Stephen Ward

Profumo-Keeler mess has spread like an ugly stain across the face of Britain. The security angle, the fuse that led to the explosion, seems to have been lost from sight as the sensational press fanned up the sex melodrama.

But it served one useful purpose, and that is to call attention to the corruption inherent in the nasty business of spying. The spy industry has grown to amazing proportions since the end of World War II. In country after country, headlines show how corrupting it is.

As publicly revealed, the West German spy case is the champion. For ten years the Soviet intelligence system had three experienced spies sitting right in the center of the German intelligence setup, which is headed by a former Nazi general, the mysterious Reinhard Gehlen. They passed 15,000 documents and betrayed German agents operating in the East. The trial of the three, Heinz Felfel, Hans Clemens and Erwin Tiebel, though relatively unimportant, brought out that they did it for money and in one instance because of hatred of the United States.

IN the United States Army acquired the Gehlen organization, including the three spies now sentenced to prison terms. The reason for this was the extensive files Gehlen had accumulated on Eastern Europe. When the Central Intelligence Agency came into being in 1949, it took over and paid for the entire operation until the German government picked it up in 1951.

To what extent the CIA has been corrupted by the work of the German spy agents is one of the secrets behind the barricade. That barrier grows higher as the spy industry grows bigger. An informed guess by Stewart Alsop puts the total in the American espionage business at over \$1,000, the cost above \$2.5 billion. He suggests a growing rivalry between CIA and the Defense Intelligence Agency, which is said to be planning its own 17-million-dollar building. This would be larger than the CIA's new headquarters.

Congress has long been concerned by reports of waste and duplication in this mushrooming business. Ever since the Bay of Pigs fiasco critics have also been asking whether the intelligence apparatus is as effective as its champions claim. Even today, with so much effort and so many new techniques concentrated on the island only 90 miles from America's shores, how much is actually known about what is happening inside Cuba? Did the CIA do anything to prevent the tragic did in April of 1961 before the tragic

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At a recent National Security Council session, these questions took specific form. The discussion was over an intelligence report that thousands of saboteurs and revolutionary infiltrators are being given technical training in Cuba and sent as operatives throughout Latin America. But whether these are actual operatives or students ideologically indoctrinated went unanswered, since the names of specific agents are not available. It seemed possible that emotionalism could enter into intelligence estimates, even at the top level.

ONE PROBLEM on duplication of effort gets down to who is running the store in our diplomatic missions abroad. Sen. Henry M. Jackson's subcommittee on security operations recently heard testimony on the "country team" and whether the ambassador is in fact in charge of executing American foreign policy.

Ambassadors have frequently complained about the excessive number of military staff in each embassy as well as the CIA operatives using embassy "cover." A witness before the Jackson committee was retired Ambassador Ellis Briggs, who testified to the difficulty of keeping track of all the characters supposed to be under his jurisdiction. While he did not bring in the CIA, he complained bitterly in his private reports when he was Ambassador to Greece in 1959 that the top CIA operative had superseded the Ambassador and was carrying on a series of operations at the behest of Queen Frederika with unvouchered CIA funds.

That the CIA has done very valuable work is widely recognized. Its intelligence appraisals are often far in advance of all other reports. But if the apparatus continues to swell with more and more duplication, then some stop will have to be put on it. Part of the corruption lies in the jealousy of rival intelligence organizations. The most notorious of all double agents, Azeff, under the Czars actually engineered the assassination of a Grand Duke although he was high up in the Czarist police, a times self-defeating.